

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01 FMC-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 DODE-00

CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /117 W

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R 271635Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8408

UNCLAS GENEVA 1455

DEPT PASS ARMSTRONG - MARAD, ELY - DOT, SMITH - FMC,

DWYER - COMMERCE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EWWT

SUBJECT: 3RD UNCTAD IPG ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT: SUMMARY OF SECOND  
WEEK

REF: GENEVA 1234

1. SUMMARY: LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF  
SECOND WEEK OF IPG DELIBERATIONS. STRIKE BY UN SECRETARIAT  
PERSONNEL WHICH BEGAN WEDNESDAY LARGEY PRECLUDED SALVAGE  
EFFORTS. PROSPECTS DIM. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND WEEK OF IPG WAS TO HAVE  
BEEN CONSIDERATION OF 24 NATION WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER  
DOCUMENTATION, SCOPE OF APPLICATION AND CUSTOMS QUESTIONS  
IN DETAIL. GROUP WAS CONSTITUTED ON MONDAY, BUT  
ITS MONDAY AND TUESDAY MEETINGS WERE TAKEN UP WITH WRANGLING  
ON CHARACTER OF GROUP'S EVENTUAL REPORT, AND WITH IN-  
CONCLUSIVE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BASIC DOCUMENTATION  
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ISSUES. GROUP WAS SUPPOSED TO BEGIN TWICE-DAILY MEETINGS

ON WEDNESDAY, BUT SECRETARIAT HAS PREVENTED  
FURTHER MEETINGS.

3. THE 24 NATIONS COMPRISING THE WORKING GROUP ARE:  
ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, COLOMBIA, CUBA, EGYPT,  
ETHIOPIA, FRG, DRG, GHANA, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRAQ, JAPAN,  
MEXICO, POLAND, SWEDEN, THILAND, TURKEY, USSR, UK.,  
US., ZAIRE, YUGOSLAVIA. MR TEMESGEN SAMUEL OF  
ETHIOPIA WAS ELECTED WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN.

4. PLENARY DISCUSSIONS MONDAY WERE DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF CUSTOMS QUESTIONS. GROUP B COORDINATOR  
EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS GENERALLY CUSTOMS  
QUESTIONS, BUT STRESSED TECHNICAL NATURE OF QUESTIONS,  
THEIR GENERALIZED CHARACTER, AND INAPPROPRIATENESS OF  
IPG AS BODY TO ADDRESS THEM. GROUP OF 77 SPOKESMAN  
INDICATED THAT 77 BELIEVED IT LOGICAL TO INCLUDE SOME  
RULES, PRINCIPLES OR SETS OF OBJECTIVES RELATING TO  
CUSTOMS IN ANY CONVENTION. GROUP OF 77 REPORTEDLY  
PREPARING A PAPER OUTLINING DESIRED CUSTOMS PROVISIONS,  
BUT PAPER NOT YET CIRCULATED. CUSTOMS SUPPOSED TO BE  
ADDRESSED BY WORKING GROUP, BUT DELAYS MAY BLOCK FURTHER  
DISCUSSION.

5. TUESDAY PLENARY WAS TO HAVE DISCUSSED SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION. IN  
PREPARATION FOR THIS, GROUP OF 77 CIRCULATED DOCUMENT  
CAPTIONED QUOTE DECLARATION OF THE 77 UNQUOTE. DECLARATION  
STATES THAT GROUP OF 77 PARTICIPATION IN THIRD  
IPG IS ON CONDITION THAT ANY FURTHER CONVENTION IN  
AREA BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC ORDER; THAT CONVENTION BE COMPATIBLE WITH  
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCE, AND WITH RELEVANT  
LEGISLATION AND AGREEMENTS ON CARGO SHARING; AND THAT  
CONVENTION SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS REGARDING RELATIONS  
OF CONFERENCE, AND CARRIERS WITH SHIPPERS MTO'S.  
GROUP B DECIDED NOT TO MAKE DETAILED RESPONSE TO  
DECLARATION UNTIL MEANING AND WEIGHT GIVEN TO IT BY 77  
MADE MORE CLEAR. HOWEVER, AT TUESDAY PLENARY, GROUP  
OF 77 NOT READY TO DISCUSS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES,  
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AND DISCUSSION DEFERRED. STRIKE HAS PREVENTED FURTHER  
PLENARY SESSIONS.

6. GROUP B HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING WEEK TO CONSIDER  
SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
MEETINGS IN BORROWED QUARTERS AT FRG MISSION. GROUP  
CURRENTLY DISCUSSING INSURANCE AND LIABILITY  
QUESTIONS, BUT WIDE DIVERGENCE OF OPINIONS REMAINS.

AUSTRALIA AND CANADA EMPHASIZED CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR UNIFORM SYSTEM. SWedes AND NORwegians URGED INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF A QUOTE BASIC UNQUOTE LIABILITY FOR MTO FOR CONCEALED DAMAGE AND DAMAGE NOT SUBJECT TO MODAL CONVENTION, WITH OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED SUBSEQUENTLY. US INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES IN LIGHT OF THEIR ECONOMIC AND INSURANCE COSTS TO SHIPPERS, WHILE NOTING THAT ANY ACCEPTABLE SYSTEM MUST PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE MTO LIABILITY FOR CONCEALED DAMAGE AND DAMAGE OCCURRING BETWEEN MODES. NO CLEAR RESOLUTION FORESEEABLE.

7. THE RESULTS OF THE IPG TO DATE ARE NOT PROMISING, AND THE SECRETARIAT STRIKE POSES CLEAR POSSIBILITY THAT MEETING MAY END EARLY. DEL SEES NO POINT IN CONTINUING INTO THIRD WEEK IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED BY MONDAY, AND GROUP OF 77 COORDINATOR HAS INDICATED THAT 77 WOULD FAVOR WRAPPING UP IPG MEETING IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED THEN. EVEN IF STRIKE SETTLED, PROSPECTS OF USEFUL WORK DURING THIRD WEEK SEEM LIMITED, AND SOME DEL MEMBERS (SHREVES OF FMC AND GAINES OF REYNOLDS) RETURNING TO US OVER WEEKEND. OTHERS MAY FOLLOW.

8. DEL PREPARING STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY AT CONCLUDING SESSIONS OF IPG (IF THERE ARE ANY) OR FOR WRITTEN DELIVERY TO UNCTAD, EXPRESSING US DISAPPOINTMENT AT RESULTS OF THIRD IPG AND QUESTIONING EXTENT OF FUTURE US PARTICIPATION IN SUBSEQUENT IPG MEETINGS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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